

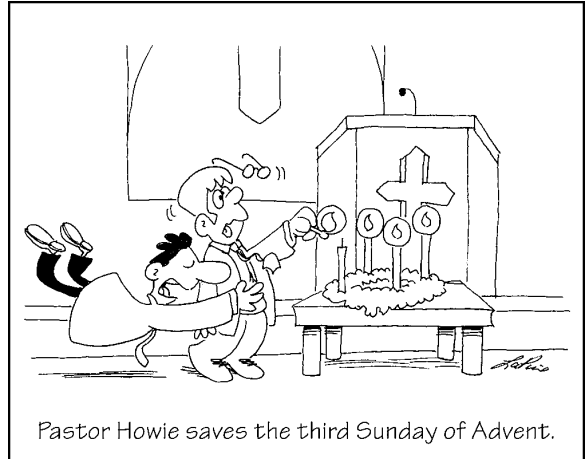
Merry Christmas *THE SEED*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Advent Change!

Since last year Advent has forever been changed for me. The last Sunday of the church year (Christ the King) was my last worship with my congregation in Pekin of 19 years. The First Sunday of Advent was my first worship as an interim pastor in North Pole, Alaska. There were changes galore last year – personal, physical, environmental, liturgical and spiritual.



But on reflection rather than change being the exception, in some ways change should become the rule. Advent should change us. The regular routine should change, needs to change, and – in fact – does change. Do we see it as an Advent change?

We shop differently during this season. We eat and party differently. We attend special activities. Many of us even dress distinctively different during this season. We get listen (altho this occurred many months prior to Advent) to specifically seasonal music. Do we see this as Advent/preChristmas or something that just happens during these months of the year?



Advent gives us a special opportunity to tell our family, friends, coworkers and classmates the reason for this season. Jesus is the reason for the season and that should change us all, this year and every Advent.

TGBG! – Pastor Paul



Council Highlights – November 10, 2009

Present at the November 10 meeting of the Council were: Bonnie Conover, Darrell Kruse, Stuart Peters, Sue Reeder, Trish Santos, Reth Stollberg, Dick Tabb, David Tooke, Barbara Wilkinson and Pastor Balaban. **Excused:** Bruce Holderbaum, and Pam Schuering

President Stuart Peters opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sue Reeder provided the opening devotions. Darrell Kruse will provide the devotions in December.

Announcements: None

The minutes of the October 13 meeting were approved as written.

Reports of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer: The reports for October were discussed and approved as written.

President's Report – Stuart told about the Mission Ministry Meeting held on October 25. Pastor Jackie Linden-Shade called the meeting to order. The process of calling a new pastor was discussed. They discussed what to look for in the new pastor. They discussed a form to be filled out that tells of leadership needs, mutual expectations, ranking of congregational needs and pastoral priorities.

Pastor's Report: The written report for November 10 was filed. He gave us ideas about calling a new pastor. The Transition Team shall be established as a short term Task Force. Its purpose is to gather, acquire, and collate the information needed for the Call Committee to complete the Ministry Site Profile. He suggested the following aggressive time line:

1. Transition Team established by the end of November.
2. During December, the team organizes their work and delegates the various assignments.
3. At least two congregational inputs are conducted.
4. In January, additional inputs are conducted.
5. At the January Council Meeting, the Call Committed is selected and has its first orientation meeting.
6. The Council Retreat (end of January-beginning of February) could be utilized to complete the collection and to process the information.
7. The team's information collection is completed and given to the Call Committee.
8. The Call Committee completes the report and submits the Ministry Site Profile to the February Council meeting for approval. The Call Committee should also prepare additional information that would enhance the congregation's image and situation.
9. If approved, the Ministry Site is submitted to the Bishop before Lent begins.

Ministry Ream and Committee Reports:

Stewardship – Dick Tabb shared pledges for the general and building funds. A thank you note will be sent out thanking parishioners for their support and encouraging others to make a pledge.

Service – Barb Wilkinson reported that the Reverse Offerings are being done for Thanksgiving and that Wendy Maas has been working on the Angel Tree project.

Property – Darrell Kruse reported that a tree has been taken down. A checklist has been posted in the kitchen for things to be done. The Property Party men will meet on November 18 and December 16. Motion was approved to have plumbing repairs in the bathrooms done. Bob Rhinberger asked that a new deck and bagger be purchased for the tractor mower. Motion was approved to spend \$2300 to buy a new bagger and deck and also to have the tractor serviced. A special collection will be taken to offset this expense. Bob was thanked for all his hard work.

Worship – Hymns have been selected through December 21. There will be no Thanksgiving Eve service this year. Living Water, a group from Nauvoo, will give a Christmas concert at Luther Memorial on December 6. An Instant Christmas activity night will be held for adults and children on December 19. There will be two services on Christmas Eve. Two stations for Communion will be used. The Worship Ministry Team will meet on November 18.

Witness – Reth Stollberg thanked Bonnie Conover and Linda Dillman for delivering the items collected for World Relief. Ploughman's Lunch was discussed.

Learning/Youth – The Learning Ministry Team will meet on November 13 to discuss Vacation Bible School. Thank you to Jennifer Fantz for agreeing to help teach Sunday School.

Fellowship – David Tooke reported that the lists for the Coffee Hour groups will be completed by next week. Charlotte Tooke was thanked for all her help. She is also assisting Robin in the office. The Hanging of the Greens will be held on November 29 following a special lunch. The next meeting is November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

New Business

1. Bonnie Scranton will lead the Service on November 29 as Pastor will be on vacation. Carols, Candles, and Communion Worship Service will be held at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
2. David Tooke has donated a snow blower to the church.
3. The Ministry Teams need to be preparing their Annual Reports and give them to Robin as soon as possible. Each team should also be planning their 2010 Budget.
4. The Tai Chi class has been going for eight weeks. Motion was approved to continue the class on Thursday evenings and Wednesday mornings.
5. Motion was approved to let Rose Probert and her Girl Scout group use the blue room on Wednesday afternoons.
6. We further discussed the Transition Team. We need a wide group of members. A sign-up will be put in the bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Joan Kammerlohr, Secretary

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING—Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM

IT'S NEVER HAPPENED . . .

But, it did, this year! We ran out of soup at the Ploughman's Lunch! We served almost 280 people and had a tremendous gathering. But, it couldn't have happened without the many volunteer hours by you. Thank you to all who helped in any way from delivering meals, pie baking, serving, washing dishes, helping make soup, to setting tables. You all were AWESOME!! We were able to give CASA a check for approximately \$3,300.00. The winner of the TV was Lisa Machold. Good job Christ Lutheran Church!



REVERSE OFFERING

Hopefully, we received quite a bit of food for our Thanksgiving Reverse Offering, so we can use part of it for our Christmas baskets. We will deliver the Christmas baskets the week of December 21. Any questions, please contact Wendy Maas (224-6794).



CHRISTMAS EVE

We will celebrate Christmas Eve with a special worship called "Carols, Candles, and Communion" at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. We hope you will come and invite your friends and neighbors.



Christmas Eve SERVICE

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.





*AVERAGE SUNDAY
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
for January through November 22*

45 Weeks 2009 104
47 Weeks 2008 101

ANGEL TREE

We will have 10 children who have a parent in Prison. Two families have the mother in Prison. On Sunday, December 6, names will be on the Angel Tree for those who wish to shop for a child. Please spend about \$30.00—\$40.00 for the gifts.



Please return the wrapped gifts to church by December 20. If you wish to deliver gifts, we have a total of 6 families. They will need to be delivered December 22 and December 23. Please contact Wendy Maas, 224-6794, if you want to deliver or have any questions.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

We will decorate our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas season. The +Altar Guild will purchase the plants. We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Your order and check need to be received in the church office by December 13. If poinsettias can be purchased at a lower cost, the remainder of the money received will be deposited in the flower fund, to reduce costs for future flower purchases.



Poinsettias

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

___ Poinsettias at \$10.00

___ Given to the Glory of God

___ Given in Memory of _____

___ Given in Honor of _____

Please make check payable to *Christ Lutheran Church Altar Guild* and return to the church office or place in Sunday offering by Sunday, December 13. Thank you.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
ASSISTING MINISTER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Pat Bell Crystal Bernett	Sue Reeder Misty Coyle	Bonnie Scranton Jim Bailey	Ron Lerner Sue McLennan
USHER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill Wolters Cheryl Brinkman	Bonnie Scranton Wendy Maas	Jerry Shackelford Butch Kuras	Bill Wolters Bruce Holderbaum
READER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stu Bell Misty Coyle	Sue Tabb Jerri Klusmeyer	Marilyn Shackelford Peggy Bailey	Bonnie Scranton Barb Wilkinson
NURSERY	Emily Stolberg	Kara Wolf		Kara Wolf
ACOLYTE 10:30 AM	Erika Stollberg	Reed Haubrich	Kara Wolf	Ian Jones
GREETERS 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Virgene Gilkerson Randy & Ruth Osterbur	Dick & Sue Tabb Jerry & Mary Shank	Tom & Nora Holte Norma Tofall	Mel & Linda Dillman Donna Leenerts
DEACON 10:30AM	Jim Bailey	Joan Lerner	Missy Kuras	Cheryl Brinkman
SOUND SYSTEM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Kathy Wolters Bruce Holderbaum	Bonnie Scranton Stuart Peters	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Bonnie Scranton Bruce Holderbaum
COFFEE HOUR	Group 6	Group 7	Group 1	Group 2

If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and call the office as soon as possible with any changes. Many Thanks!



If you have a birthday in December and your name does not appear on the following list, we would appreciate it if you notify the church office.

December	1 Brian Reeder Robert Hufendick	16 Yasmin Tayyab Olivia Peters
	2 Janet Shields	20 Pat Bell
	5 Crystal Bernett	21 Jessica Stapleton
	6 Mariann Bergstrasser	23 Gerald Shank
	7 Mike Fannin Alison Schwartzkopf	27 Joyce Leenerts
	8 Jenna Wagy	28 Ron Lerner Marilyn Shackelford
	13 Lindy Ward	30 Ty Zimmerman Evelyn Hughes Kyle Osterbur
	14 Robin Willer	



If you have a wedding anniversary in December and it does not appear below, please notify the church office.

December	4 Jerry and Julie Spurgeon
	16 Mark and Dianne Sill